

chapterletter

Newsletter of the Boston Society of Architects
A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
December 1978

LIBRARY
BOSTON ARCHITECTURAL CENTER



Josiah Quincy School

Photo by Steve Rosenthal

Harleston Parker Medal

At the Annual Meeting on November 15 the Society voted to approve the recommendation of the Harleston Parker Medal Committee and so name Josiah Quincy Community School as this year's recipient.

"The Josiah Quincy School is a handsome solution to many complex architectural problems involving education, health care, public housing, community uses. The project was further complicated by a site that was bisected by a subway line, bordered by a high-speed turnpike, surrounded by a wide variety of urban conditions, and partially reserved for high-rise elderly housing. And, lastly, the building had to be carried out under the Massachusetts public bidding laws. (In the last 30 years the only public building to win the Parker Medal was Boston City Hall).

"Given all these conditions and restraints, the architects have produced a building that is imaginative in its concept, consistent in its detailing and materials and bold in its integration of art, both interior and exterior. Its use of roof-top playgrounds and their careful relationship to the scale and accessibility of the neighborhood is particularly commendable.

"While the major credit must be given to The Architects Collaborative, acknowledgement should be made to the Public Facilities Department of the City of Boston, to Hermann H. Field FAIA of the Planning Office of Tufts New England Medical Center which obtained the original planning grants, to the Quincy School Community Council, and to the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency and their architects, Jung-Brannen."

President Rankine Reports

Annual Meeting

This year has, I believe, been a relatively good year for the Society. On the whole we have pushed ahead with our goals stated earlier this year of adding strength to the committee structure of the society and of working toward a new home — one that would allow us to increase activities and the vitality of the Chapter.

Most of the hard work of the Boston Society of Architects is done through the committees. Some committees find themselves heavily involved in matters urgent to the profession, others in matters related to Metropolitan Boston and some to pursuing interests in environmental, design, educational and related matters.

This year we have seen great activity from the Education Committee with their proposal for its establishment of a program for recognition of innovative architectural designs. This committee has met frequently and worked hard in getting this proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Codes Committee has maintained close touch with the State Building Code Commission on the adoption of the BOCA '78 — a very important service to the profession. It is committees such as this and the Housing and Professional Practice Committees that give tremendous service to us without much recognition, little thanks and usually little support. Often their successes are difficult for us to see immediately — but it is wonderful when their efforts result in something as tangible as the publication of "Clients Guide to Architectural Services" by the Office Practice Committee.

We are, as you know, a changing profession. The events at this year's AIA Convention in Dallas showed this dramatically with the adoption of new directions on design build, re-registration, advertising, etc. There we also had an intense involvement in the adoption of the directions to the AIA Board to restrict future conventions to states that had ratified the ERA. There are many issues around that effect us all. We are, once again, trying to debate directions in design, energy, environmental design and as in most urban areas there are many key urban design issues in Metropolitan Boston. I believe that it is essential that this Society discuss them, listen to attitudes within the profession and outside it and help each other come to an understanding of the forces that effect us. I believe that we should have a program designed to debate and the interchange of ideas and a place where that can occur. I would like to see lectures, talks, discussions, exhibitions, and other events and I think it would be beneficial if our Society headquarters were not only a place for special events, but also a place for casual meeting, eating, and drinking, buying books, using a library, looking at drawings and designs and above all, talking and passing ideas around.

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Annual Meeting



Clancy Rankine

Photo by Doug Cannon

Gavel Passes

Terry Rankine passes gavel to new President John Clancy.

President Rankine Reports (continued)

So I hope that our strategy of starting our bookstore now, building up revenues, searching for new space, and getting it in the next five years meets with enthusiastic support. We also want to explore the possibility of establishing a new class of membership to bring into our meetings the large number of people who are extremely interested in architecture but are not architects. These affiliate members, if that is what we choose to call them, would have access to lectures, discussions, special events, and tours. They would not be BSA members in the full sense, but their participation could allow us to broaden our programs and above all give us the benefit of ideas from interested people outside the profession.

I think we need this vitality. Our membership should be increasing, but it is not, and many potential members complain of high dues and little in return. Therefore, we need a strong program — one that will attract architects, other professions and all of those who are interested in the fabric of Boston. I hope you will continue to support what we have tried to start this year.

Election Results

The following candidates have been elected to the positions indicated as a result of the ballots which were counted and announced at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

President

John Clancy AIA

Vice President

Marilyn Fraser AIA

Secretary

Richard L. Mullin AIA

Treasurer

Peter Steffian AIA

Commissioner of Architectural Design

Howard F. Elkus AIA

Commissioner of Education and Research

Sarah P. Harkness AIA

Directors at Large

Paul H. Krueger AIA

Robert J. Searson, Jr. AIA

Honors and Awards Committee

Joseph Maybank AIA

Robert Sturgis FAIA

Nominating Committee

Joseph L. Eldredge FAIA

Terry Rankine AIA

Membership Committee

Gail Flynn AIA

Michael J. Kraus AIA

Ethics Committee

John F. Miller AIA

Representatives to MSAA

Executive Committee

David R. Johnson AIA

A. Anthony Tappe AIA



Menzies

Honorary Member 1978

On November 15 at the BSA Annual Meeting, President Rankine presented Ian S. Menzies with a certificate of honorary membership in the Boston Society of Architects. The certificate reads as follows: *In recognition of his contribution to this community's urban and environmental understanding through informed and sensitive reporting and writing.*

Membership

New Members

John Carl Becker AIA

John Patrick Sheehy AIA

New Members

Inter-Chapter Transfers

John S. Bilzerian AIA

Frederick A. MacDonald AIA

New Associate Member

Steven Jay Bradford

Transfers to Boston

Mark A. Gulliver AIA
from Central Massachusetts Chapter

Linda C. Neshamkin AIA
from Philadelphia Chapter

The Bookshop



Rankine Martini Clancy

Photo by Doug Cannon

Bookshop Opening

Terry Rankine and John Clancy with Richard Martini, Bookshop Manager, at opening on November 15.

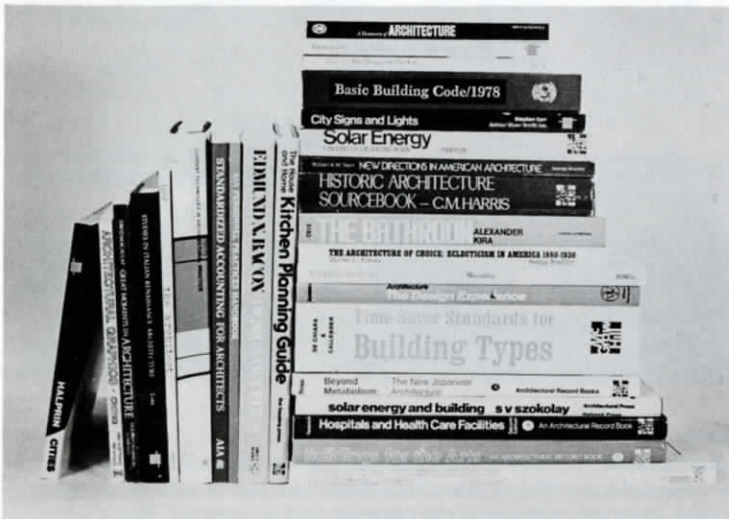


Photo by Doug Cannon

BOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKS

These are a few of the titles available at the BSA Bookshop. We're open for books and documents Monday-Friday, 9-5. Come by and browse. Take advantage of your 10% member discount and purchase your holiday books today!

News from the Chapter Office

Preservation Award

The Historic Resources Committee solicits membership nominations for the 1979 Preservation Award. Previous recipients are:

- 1978: Dr. Patrick Mogan for the City of Lowell's Preservation Program.
- 1977: John Pramberg, President of the Institute for Savings for Newburyport's urban renewal project.
- 1976: Neil St. John Raymond, for One Winthrop Square, Webster House, Exeter Theater.
- 1975: Salem Redevelopment Authority for downtown Salem renewal.
- 1974: Walter Beinicke, for Nantucket waterfront rebuilding.
- 1973: Cambridge Historic Commission for their architectural survey's walking guides.

The purpose of the award is to commend an aware developer, agency or individual for distinguished effort and accomplishment in the renovation, adaptive reuse or preservation of a building or an area.

The location is within the BSA chapter, and must have been completed by December 31, 1978. Enclose exact title, project location, name of owner(s), architect and photograph. Send to: Angus W. Crowe, AIA, 5 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108, before January 1, 1979.



Lesser Dukakis

Stuart D. Lesser AIA New Director of BBC

Stuart Lesser, a member of the Boston Society of Architects and formerly with the Public Facilities Department of Boston, was appointed by Governor Dukakis as the new Director of the Bureau of Building Construction. He was sworn in on October 31 in ceremonies in the Governor's Office.

Mr. Lesser was one of three candidates recommended to Governor Dukakis by a Search Committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner David Flynn; John McSweeney, former Public Works Director for the Town of Lexington; Harold Glenzel, General Manager for the real estate operations of New England Telephone and Lowell Erickson, Executive Director of MSAA.

BAC Library (2 copies) 1.

News from the Chapter Office

Calendar

December 1

Reservations and final payment for BAC Study Tour

December 7

Preservation Film Festival
BAC, 12-2

January 1

Deadline for Preservation Award Nominations

January 22

Deadline for Rotch Travelling Scholarship application requests

Order AIA Documents from the Chapter office.

Correction

Jehangir J. Mugaseth AIA was mistakenly omitted from the 1978 BSA Membership List.

1979 Dues Payments

All BSA members residing outside of the United States should make all dues payments in American currency.

Budget 1979

A total budget of \$150,185, as distributed in the November Chapterletter, was approved at the Annual Meeting on November 15. BSA dues for 1979 will be \$86.00, an increase of \$8.00 over 1978. NERC has already voted a \$6.00 assessment, a \$2.00 increase over 1978. And the MSAA dues and budget will be adopted at the Annual Meeting on November 29.

Document News

Effective December 1, 1978, charge orders for documents must be \$5.00 or more. Orders less than \$5.00 will be cash only.

B181, the new AIA document called, "Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect for Housing Services with Cost Estimating Services Provided by Owner," is now available at the Bookshop. Member price is \$.40.

Historic Preservation Film Festival

The Historic Resources Committee announces the first in the series of Preservation Film Festivals, to be held at Cascieri Hall, Boston Architectural Center, on Thursday, December 7, 1978. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us anytime between noon and 2:00 p.m. Featured will be continuous showing of films, and a display of current literature on preservation techniques and the new preservation tax act.

Two additional similar noontime festivals will be held in January for people located in the downtown Boston and Harvard Square areas. The festival will be held on January 10 at the National Park Service building at 15 State Street (4th floor conference room), and January 31 in Harvard Square.

William B. Gagnebin AIA
David M. Hart AIA
Historic Resources Committee

Cheers and Tears



Cheers

The Metropolitan District Commission's Spot Pond Water Pumping Station in Stoneham looked like this shortly after completion in 1901. Recently it was considered an example of turn-of-the-century Industrial Architecture worthy of inclusion on the National Register.



Tears

Subsequent to repairs necessitated by a fire in 1975, the 16-foot clerestory along with its carved limestone over-panel was removed, thereby seriously affecting both massing and proportion. Though its general appearance was retained, it is unfortunate that a more sensitive reconstruction was not executed.